

STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
September 2003 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

Prepared by: Elizabeth Robbins, Policy Development & Regional Coordination

Reviewed by: Charlie Howard, Director, Strategic Planning & Programming

Approved by: Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff

PURPOSE:

Inform the Transportation Commission on progress of the update process for the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (Washington's Transportation Plan, or WTP).

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Commission concurrence in the proposed work plan's first phase (five background papers) and the general direction of the update.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission held a preliminary discussion at the June 2003 meeting on the update. That discussion included the current state of transportation planning in Washington, including legislative requirements and the sometimes conflicting or confusing instructions and rules. The Commission also discussed the desired outcome of the next update to the Statewide Transportation Plan as a blueprint for implementation programs and budget development.

DISCUSSION:

The update process is under way with the development of a work plan, attached. The workplan consists in a first effort of five background briefing papers, to be followed by the main planning process which is still evolving. Staff is beginning work on the background papers that will set the context for which we are planning. To date we've had a number of meetings to help structure the planning process after the "context-setting" or background stage. These meetings include:

On August 18th, we met with five MPO directors (Puget Sound Regional Council, Thurston Regional Council, Whatcom Council of Governments, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, and Benton-Franklin Council of Governments). As well, we presented the preliminary concept to the Washington State Transit Association at their annual conference on August 25th. Also on that date, we spoke with Spokane Regional

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Transportation Council Director Glenn Miles and with WSDOT's Judy Giniger, Director of Public Transit and Rail Division. We will also be forming an internal advisory group of modal directors, and Kathleen Davis, Director of Highways & Local Programs Division, will chair that group which will act as both a sounding board on update matters and be an important component of our communications network on the WTP update.

The presenter will describe the work plan in more detail during the Commission meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Concur in the proposed work plan's first phase (five background papers) and general direction of the update.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Robbins at 705-7371.